STAPLETON

BLOOMING WORK

By Rob Bailey | bailey@siadvance.com

Ruben Ruiz is in full bloom, so to speak, with his latest project.

The Dominican-born Ruiz was interested in painting as a child and studied art at Universidad Pedro Henriquez Urena, Santo Domingo. Arriving in the United States 12 years ago, he became a cosmetologist but continued to paint T-shirts part-time.

"When I'm in front of a canvas, I create my own perfect world the way I want to see it. Dominated by beauty, love and good memories," Ruben told us a while back.

The result: "Petals by Ruben Ruiz" is now on view at SIABC Art Gallery, 73 Wave St. off of Bay in Stapleton.

Today, this New Dorp dude is less hair and makeup — and more of his "combination of realism, modern, nouveau and pop" art.

"If anyone had a doubt of buying quality art on SI, this is your chance," SIABC founder John Salls posted on Facebook. "We will prove you wrong..." No reason not to buy a piece for your living room."

"Petals" is up through the second week of June. For more info about Staten Island Arts Building Corporation programming, call 917-580-5439 or check out SIABC.net.

PORT RICHMOND

Know your community resources

New York Center for In- personal Development presents its "Community resources of Staten Island" launch event from 5 p.m. today at Port Richmond High School, 11 St. Joseph's Ave.

The event will promote education and services with free food and entertainment, and will be open to the public.

More info: Call 718-815-8124.

LIVINGSTON

Art Lab retrospective

This venerable Staten Island cultural institution — part gallery, part event space — holds a reception for its Art Lab's Annual Student Show from 2 to 4 p.m. today in Building H on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural & Botanical Garden, 1000 Richmond Terr., Livingston.

The exhibition will feature works by students from 1975-2015. For details about upcoming classes, check out ArtLabLI.org.

NEW DORP

Kid's Comics Day at JHU

JHU Comic Books marks Happy Children's Book Week, an annual reading awareness push, with a sale: 25 percent off all kid's comic books and graphic novels.

Plus, visit the store at 2991 New Dorp Lane from noon to 5 p.m. today for the family-friendly "Kid's Comics Day" party packed with comic book fun and arts and crafts.

ST. GEORGE

A big bird count

From historic bald eagle sightings to wild turkey talk, it's becoming increasingly clear that S.I. is for the birds.

Next up: Celebrate the 40th anniversary of Big Bird Day from midnight tonight to midnight tomorrow, when teams of two to four birders can travel anywhere in S.I. in pursuit of accumulating the largest "day list" possible in a 24-hour period.

Get down for the count at 8 p.m. tonight in the Staten Island Museum, 80-40 New Utrecht Ave., St. George; StatenIslandMuseum.org. Teams are welcome to spend as much or as little time in the field as they wish. Newbies are encouraged to participate, "so gather up some friends, grab field guides and binoculars and hit the trails!"

All efforts will be tallied to create the borough-wide total. If you have questions or concerns, contact Will Lenihan at 718-443-7170. Warning: If you are striking South Shore parks, don't you dare disrupt the bald eagle nesting site. Report any eagle harassment to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Wildlife Diversity Unit at 518-402-8920.

STATEN ISLAND

Wine & dine

Mom

No excuses: You need to treat Mom to lunch, brunch or dinner tomorrow.

Check out resident foodie Pa- mela Silversmith's top spots for Mother's Day meals at SILive.com/dining.

Oh, and while you're at it: The deadline for voting for the 2015 Staten Island Readers' Choice "Best Restaurant" title is Monday at the witching hour at SILive.com/readerchoice.